

## **Nova Scotia**



For centuries before the arrival of the Europeans the canal area was used as a portage route by native peoples. After the French settled there in the late 1600s, it became an important trade and commerce centre; its proximity to the Bras d'Or Lakes provided easy inland access to one-third of Cape Breton Island. The townsite, originally named Port Toulouse, was situated on the narrow neck of land between the lakes and the Allantic Ocean. As Port Toulouse was also a major supply centre for the gigantic Fortress of Louisbourg, 120 km to the north, the French fortified the surrounding hills and stationed a Small carrison there.

The canal was started in 1854. A passage about 800 m long was to cut through the narrowest point of land. The shortest route, however, was not necessarily the easiest or the fastest to build, as time proved.

After 15 years of gruelling digging, blasting and drilling, an opening averaging 30 m wide was cut through a solid granite hill 20 m high. This passage was shored-up with timbers and planking, locks were installed, and in 1869 the canal finally became a reality. Additions, renovations, widering the chan-lead legoldeping the locks continued until 1917.

There is tidal activity at both ends of the canal, but there can be a difference of up to 1.4 m between lake and ocean. For this reason, both entrances have double lock gates. The single set of locks is 91.44 m long by 14.45 m wilde and can handle vessels with 4.88 m draught.

The canal is now used during the summer by all kinds of pleasure craft, from cances to schooners and large power cruisers. Only occasionally does a commercial vessel pass through these locks that were once so vital to the communication and economy of Cape Breton Island. In 1973, the historic and recreational importance of the canal was commemorated by its transfer from the Ministry of Transport to Parks Canada.

### Hours of Operation

Vavigation season May 13 to October 12, 1983

To ensure being locked through, boaters must arrive 30 minutes before closing.

Friday, May 13—Thursday, June 16

Friday, May 13–Thursday, June 16 inclusive 08:30–16:30h Friday, June 17–Sunday, August 7 inclusive 08:30–20:30h

Monday, August 8-Monday, September 5 inclusive 08:30-19:30h Tuesday, September 6-Wednesday, October 12

inclusive 08:30–16:30h

Passage through St. Peters Canal after ice breakup
until May 13 and after October 12 until freeze-up is
from 08:30–16:30h. Monday to Saturday, weather

#### General Notes

 For safety reasons, vessel operators and passengers should not smoke, idle engines or operate open flame appliances during a lock operation or restart engines until directed by lock operators.

advance notice to the canal superintendent.

- Times given are local time.
- No vessel shall be moored to a canal wharf or wall for a period in excess of 48 hours. Mooring fees, based on the vessel length, may be levied after the first 24-hour period.

For more information

St. Peters Canal P.O. Box 8 St. Peters, Nova Scotia B0E 3B0 (902) 535-2118

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Le canal St. Peters

# Nouvelle-Écosse



Durant bien des siècles, avant l'arrivée des Européens, la région du canal servait de route de nortage aux peuplades indigenes. Une fois colonisé par les Français vers la fin des années 1600, l'endroit devint un important centre d'échange et de commerce à cause de sa proximité des lacs Bras. d'Or. Ces lacs constituaient une voie d'accès intérieure facile pour le tiers de l'Île-du-Cap-Breton Port Toulouse, se trouvait sur l'étroite langue de terque Forteresse de Louisbourg, située à 120 km plus au nord, les Français ont fortifié les collines environ-

étroit. Cependant, la route la plus courte n'était pas construire, comme le temps devait d'ailleurs le prouver.

tion, dynamitage et forage - une ouverture mesurant en movenne 30 m de largeur fut taillée à travers une colline de granit massif d'une hauteur de 20 m. Ce passage fut étanconné. Des additions, des rénol'allongement de la distance entre les écluses furent

de niveau allant jusqu'à 1.4 m entre le lac et l'océan. écluses mesure 91.44 m de longueur et 14.45 m de largeur et peut accommoder des navires ayant un tirant d'eau de 4.88 m.

traverse ces écluses qui, anciennement, étaient esl'Île-du-Cap-Breton, En 1973, l'importance historitransfert du ministère des Transports à Parcs

#### Heures de service

Saison de navigation du 13 mai au 12 octobre 1983

Vendredi, 13 mai-jeudi, 16 juin	
inclusivement	08h30-16h30
Vendredi, 17 juin-dimanche, 7 août inclusivement	08h30-20h30
Lundi, 8 août-lundi, 5 septembre inclusivement	08h30-19h30
Mardi, 6 septembre-mercredi, 12 oc	lobre 09530_16530

On peut emprunter le canal St. Peters, du bris des glaces jusqu'au 13 mai et du 12 octobre jusqu'au gel le temps et les glaces le permettent, à condition d'en

### Renseignements généraux

- a Pour des raisons de sécurité, pendant le passage des écluses, capitaine et passagers doivent et ne le remettre en marche qu'au moment où l'éclusier en signale la possibilité.
- c Aucun navire ne peut être amarré à un quai ou un
- bajover pendant plus de 48 heures. Des frais

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du ministre de l'Environnement Ministère des Approvisionnements

